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Job Vacancies, Australia

Results of the quarterly Job Vacancies Survey containing estimates of job vacancies classified by industry, sector and state/territory.

Reference period May 2024

Released 27/06/2024

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Key statistics

Seasonally adjusted estimates for May 2024:

- Total job vacancies were 352,600, a decrease of 2.7% from February 2024.
- Private sector vacancies were 313,500, a decrease of 2.7% from February 2024.
- Public sector vacancies were 39,100, a decrease of 2.5% from February 2024.

Job vacancies, public and private sector

		May-2024 ('000)	Quarterly change (%)	Yearly change (%)
Trend	Private sector	313.8	-3.4	-16.5
	Public sector	39.0	-3.7	-15.7
	Private and public sectors	352.7	-3.4	-16.4
Seasonally Adjusted	Private sector	313.5	-2.7	-17.8
	Public sector	39.1	-2.5	-16.5
	Private and public sectors	352.6	-2.7	-17.7
Original	Private sector	302.1	-6.7	-17.8
	Public sector	39.3	1.0	-16.5
	Private and public sectors	341.5	-5.9	-17.7

Survey impacts and changes

Other measures of labour demand

In addition to Job Vacancies, there are a number of non-ABS indicators that measure labour demand using alternative concepts, sources and methods. These are also widely used as leading indicators of employment. Prominent examples include the ANZ-Indeed Australian Job Ads Index, the SEEK Employment Report, and Jobs and Skills Australia's Internet Vacancy Index.

Measures of job vacancies and job advertisements will differ for a number of reasons:

- Job vacancies includes jobs for which job advertisements are undertaken but also includes jobs where other recruitment approaches are exclusively used, such as word of mouth or social media. For example, jobs in the Accommodation and food services industry are more likely to be advertised on social media or in shop front signs. These jobs were one of the key drivers of the boom in job vacancies during the pandemic.
- Job vacancies is a count of every position advertised within a single notice, while some job advertisements may be used to fill multiple positions.
- Most job advertisement series collect the number of jobs advertised over a period of time, whereas job vacancies are measured on one particular day. The difference between these two measures could be exacerbated during a time of severe labour shortages. That is, if a job is vacant longer, there is more chance it will be vacant on the reference date, yet it would still only count for one job ad.

Additional estimates produced during the COVID-19 period ceased

During the COVID-19 period, the ABS produced some additional insights from the Job Vacancies Survey to complement its longstanding estimates of job vacancies. This included estimates of the proportion of businesses reporting vacancies and reasons for vacancies.

Following the release of February 2024 data, which was four years of publishing this additional data, the ABS reviewed the ongoing value of these series. Given they provide only limited additional insights into labour demand, beyond the range of standard Job Vacancies tables, the ABS has ceased publishing these additional series as of the May 2024 release.

Job vacancies over time

Job vacancies decreased by 2.7% (9,800 vacancies) in the three months to May 2024 (seasonally adjusted). Despite this being the eighth consecutive quarterly decrease, the level of job vacancies in May 2024 remained elevated. Job vacancies were 54.8% higher than they were in February 2020, prior to the start of the pandemic. The ongoing high level of vacancies reflected the continuing labour shortages in many industries.

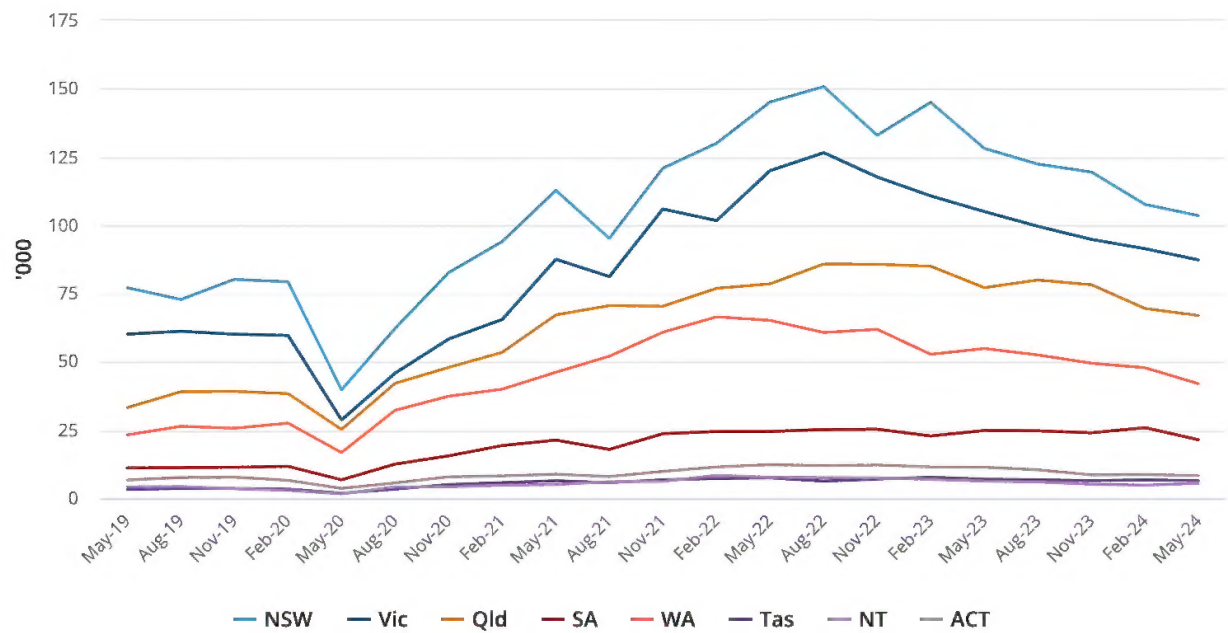
Job vacancies, seasonally adjusted



The Job Vacancies Survey was suspended between August 2008 to August 2009 (inclusive).

States and territories

Job vacancies, states and territories, original

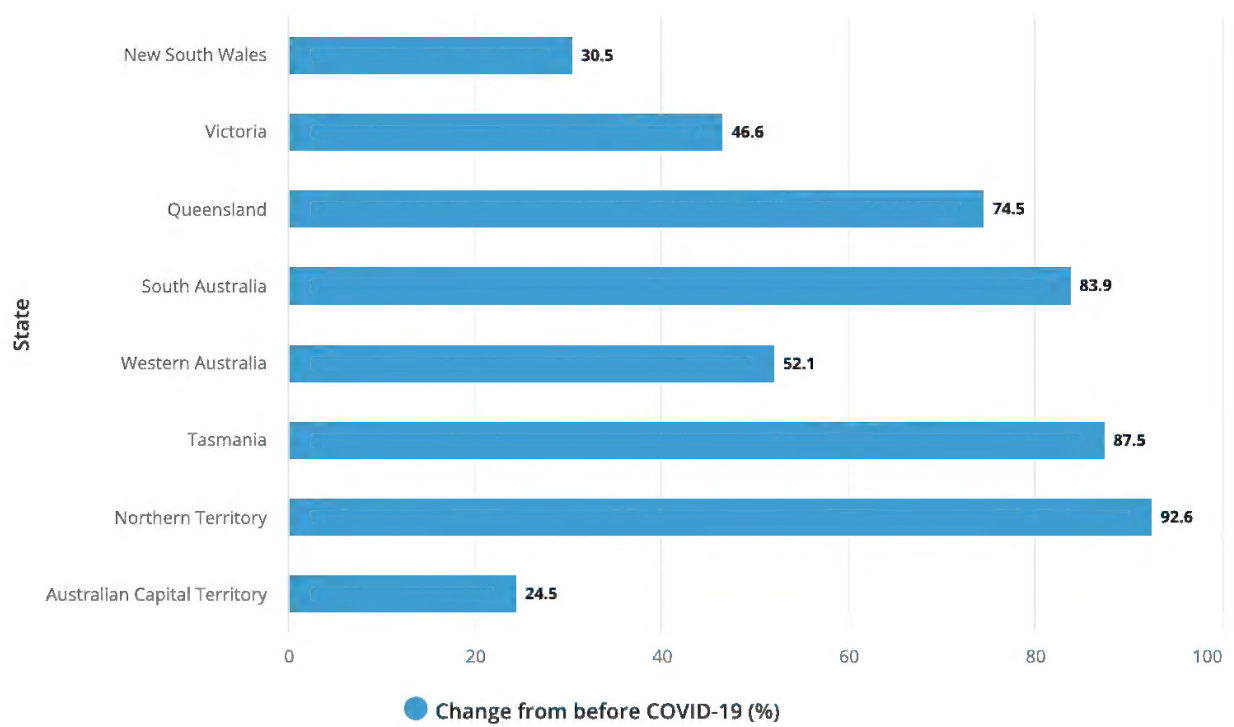


Change in job vacancies, states and territories (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia	Australia (Seasonally adjusted)	Australia (Trend)
Change from previous quarter											
Feb-23	9.0	-5.9	-0.8	-9.4	-14.8	8.4	-8.4	-5.8	-1.8	-2.5	-2.8
May-23	-11.7	-5.1	-9.3	8.7	4.0	-7.6	-8.3	-1.1	-6.2	-2.9	-4.5
Aug-23	-4.5	-5.2	3.8	-1.0	-4.3	-4.7	-4.8	-8.4	-3.0	-8.8	-5.1
Nov-23	-2.3	-4.7	-2.2	-2.8	-5.8	-3.6	-13.9	-17.2	-3.9	-1.0	-4.8
Feb-24	-10.0	-3.6	-11.1	8.0	-3.3	4.7	-7.4	1.0	-6.1	-6.2	-4.1
May-24	-3.8	-4.4	-3.7	-17.3	-12.3	-6.6	15.2	-5.0	-5.9	-2.7	-3.4
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year											
May-22	28.7	37.1	16.9	14.6	41.1	16.5	53.3	40.8	29.7	29.6	44.1
May-23	-11.7	-12.5	-2.0	2.0	-15.8	-5.8	-18.5	-7.7	-10.0	-10.1	-5.0
May-24	-19.2	-16.8	-13.1	-14.0	-23.5	-10.1	-12.6	-27.2	-17.7	-17.7	-16.4

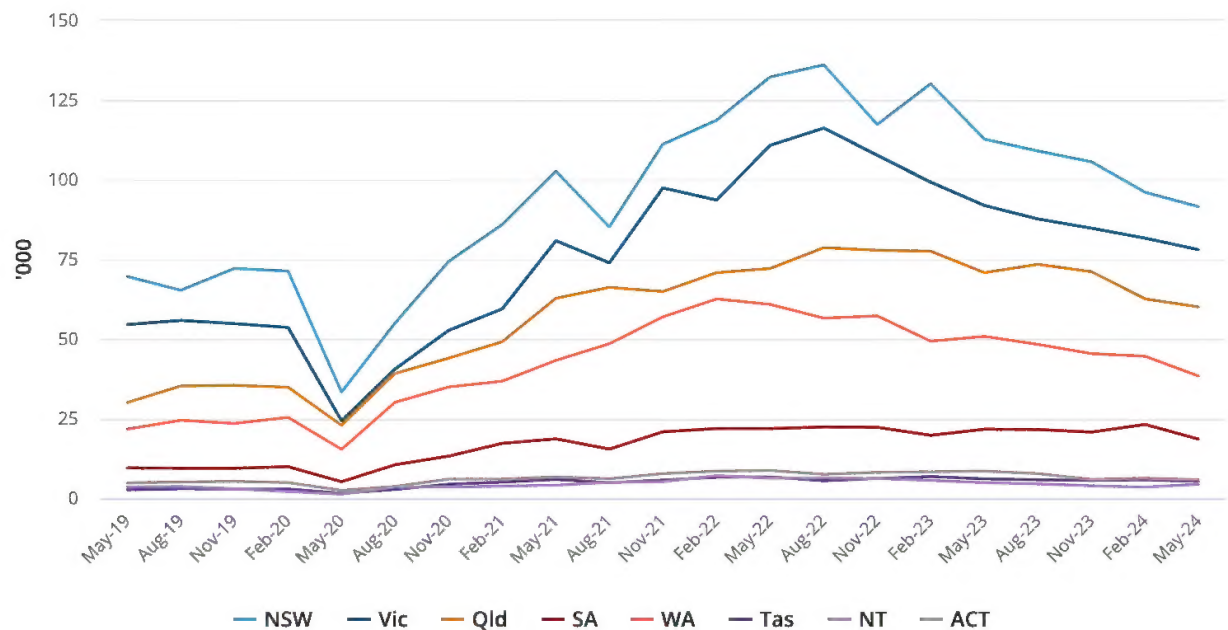
Data refers to original series unless otherwise stated

Job vacancies, change from February 2020 to May 2024, states and territories, original



Private sector

Job vacancies, private sector, states and territories, original



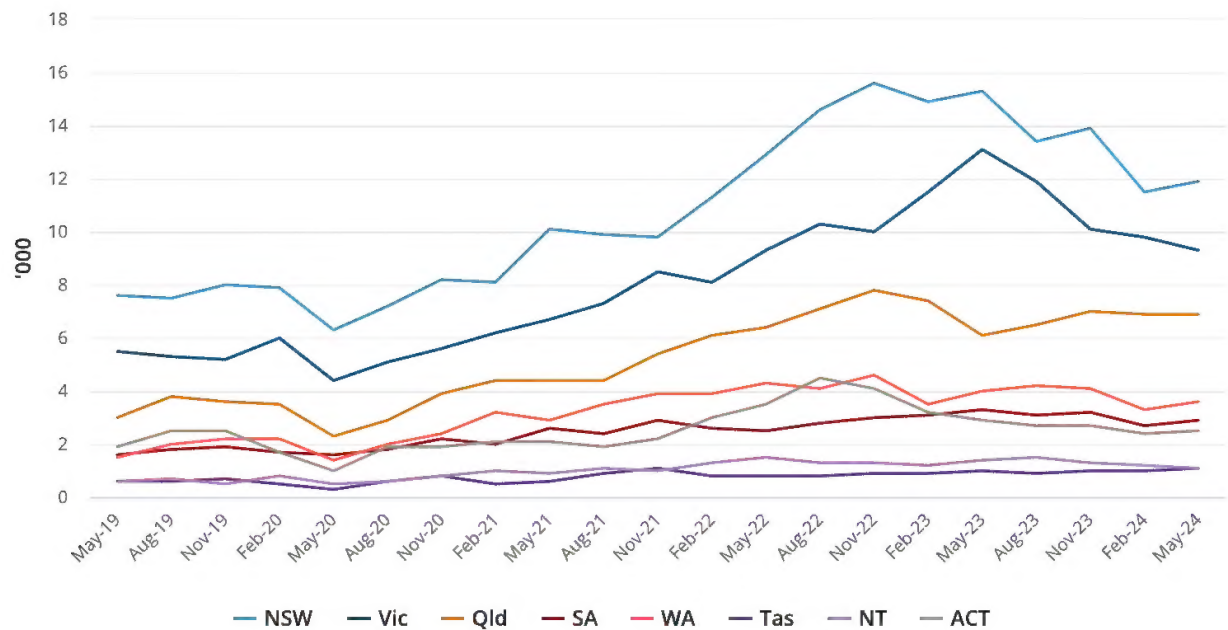
Change in job vacancies, private sector (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia	Australia (Seasonally adjusted)	Australia (Trend)
Change from previous quarter											
Feb-23	10.8	-7.8	-0.4	-11.2	-14.1	9.2	-8.7	2.7	-1.6	-2.8	-3.2
May-23	-13.3	-7.4	-8.6	9.4	3.3	-9.6	-13.3	2.4	-7.3	-3.2	-4.8
Aug-23	-3.3	-4.6	3.6	-0.4	-5.0	-4.3	-7.6	-9.0	-2.6	-9.1	-5.3
Nov-23	-3.1	-3.3	-3.1	-3.6	-6.0	-4.6	-14.1	-23.9	-4.2	-0.8	-4.8
Feb-24	-9.1	-3.7	-12.1	11.5	-1.9	4.5	-8.7	7.1	-5.7	-6.3	-4.1
May-24	-4.7	-4.4	-4.0	-19.9	-13.9	-9.0	23.5	-8.4	-6.7	-2.7	-3.4
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year											
May-22	28.7	36.9	15.0	17.0	40.8	14.7	51.2	32.0	29.1	29.1	44.6
May-23	-14.7	-17.0	-1.8	-1.2	-16.4	-9.4	-21.9	-3.1	-12.4	-12.4	-6.7
May-24	-18.8	-15.1	-15.3	-14.3	-24.6	-13.2	-10.6	-32.1	-17.8	-17.8	-16.5

Data refers to original series unless otherwise stated

Public sector

Job vacancies, public sector, states and territories, original



Change in job vacancies, public sector (%)

	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	WA	Tas	NT	ACT	Australia	Australia (Seasonally adjusted)	Australia (Trend)
Change from previous quarter											
Feb-23	-4.8	14.7	-5.7	4.3	-23.6	2.7	-7.2	-22.7	-3.5	0.4	1.0
May-23	2.9	14.7	-17.1	4.6	14.4	7.4	14.7	-10.1	3.1	-0.3	-2.0
Aug-23	-12.6	-9.4	5.3	-5.5	4.1	-6.8	4.8	-6.7	-6.5	-6.4	-3.9
Nov-23	4.1	-15.2	8.6	3.1	-2.3	2.9	-13.5	2.5	-1.8	-2.8	-4.7
Feb-24	-17.0	-2.8	-1.6	-14.3	-18.9	5.9	-3.1	-12.3	-9.9	-5.9	-4.4
May-24	3.4	-4.8	-0.7	4.8	9.4	7.2	-8.6	4.2	1.0	-2.5	-3.7
Change from corresponding quarter of previous year											
May-22	27.8	39.9	44.1	-2.7	46.0	33.9	62.9	68.5	36.0	35.9	39.8
May-23	18.4	41.0	-4.2	29.6	-7.3	24.5	-4.3	-19.2	14.1	14.2	11.3
May-24	-21.9	-28.9	11.8	-12.5	-9.9	9.0	-19.7	-12.6	-16.5	-16.5	-15.7

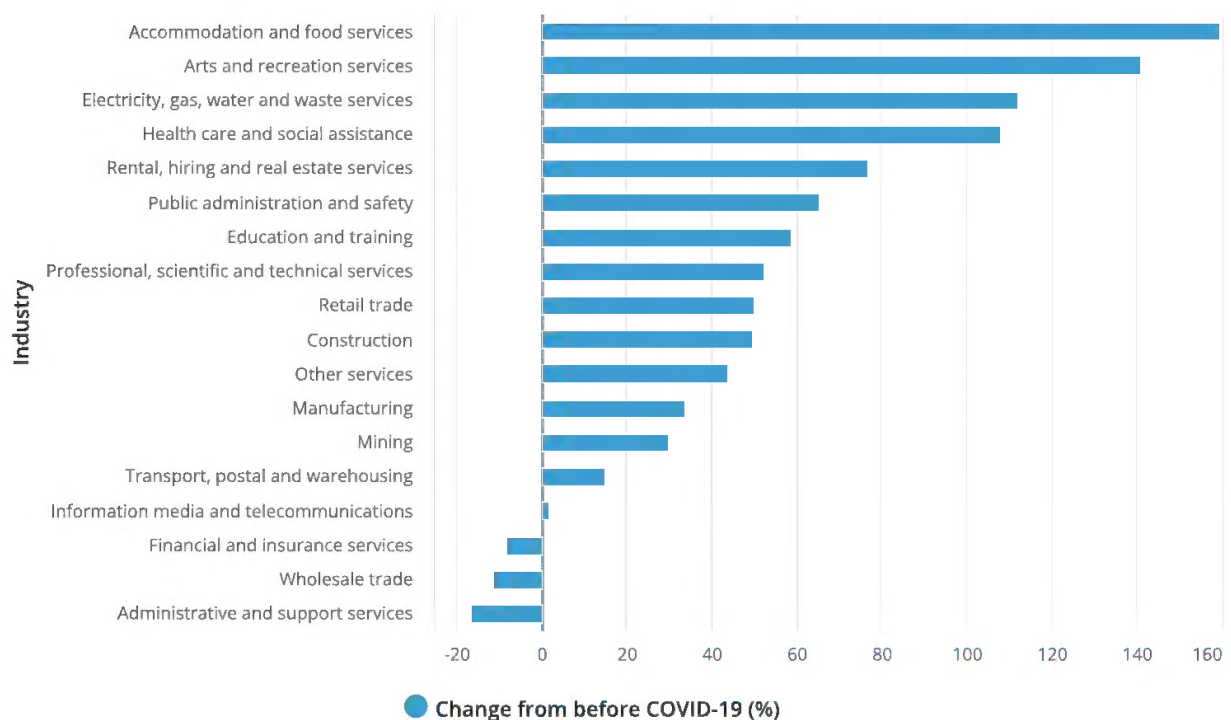
Data refers to original series unless otherwise stated

Industry

Job vacancies, industry, original ('000)

	Feb-23	May-23	Aug-23	Nov-23	Feb-24	May-24
Mining	10.6	11.7	11.4	11.5	10.7	8.5
Manufacturing	25.1	22.6	25.1	23.4	23.3	16.4
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	4.5	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.6	4.5
Construction	31.2	33.1	28.8	28.5	27.9	24.9
Wholesale trade	16.5	15.3	15.5	14.0	16.2	11.2
Retail trade	36.4	32.2	38.5	37.2	32.1	28.4
Accommodation and food services	57.8	42.5	41.4	38.8	35.1	38.3
Transport, postal and warehousing	14.6	13.4	12.1	11.5	10.1	8.7
Information media and telecommunications	3.6	3.8	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.5
Financial and insurance services	14.9	13.4	11.3	10.0	11.7	10.9
Rental, hiring and real estate services	5.9	5.5	5.5	4.8	5.8	5.7
Professional, scientific and technical services	47.6	44.7	42.5	41.4	34.6	40.1
Administrative and support services	38.4	37.5	33.2	31.5	30.0	26.0
Public administration and safety	26.4	22.9	23.6	23.8	19.0	21.9
Education and training	13.5	15.9	15.5	13.6	15.6	12.3
Health care and social assistance	72.4	72.9	68.1	67.5	65.0	61.8
Arts and recreation services	6.6	6.5	7.3	7.3	4.9	4.8
Other services	16.5	16.1	14.2	13.5	12.6	13.6

Job vacancies, change from February 2020 to May 2024, industry, original



Data Downloads

Time series spreadsheets

[Download all \(291.4 KB\)](#)

Table 1. Job vacancies, states and territories ('000)

[Download XLSX](#)
[80.91 KB]

Table 2. Job vacancies, private sector, states and territories ('000)

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[88.88 KB]

Table 3. Job vacancies, public sector, states and territories ('000)

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[78.51 KB]

Table 4. Job vacancies, industry, Australia ('000) - original

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Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6354.0.

Methodology

[Job Vacancies, Australia methodology, May 2024](#)